

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this Application and entry of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 17-25 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 19 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 4-16, and 26-62 have been cancelled without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

Restriction Requirement

Applicant confirms election of Group I, claims 1-25. Claims 26-62 have been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-15 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,253,252 to Hossainy et al. The Examiner noted that claims 16-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, thereby overcoming the rejection. Claims 2 and 4-15 have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot. Claims 22-25 depend from amended claim 1 and are therefore allowable over Hossainy et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 16-21 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 16-21 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As noted above, claim 16 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claims 17-18 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 19 has been re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2525. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any

way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (410) 788-7684.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ferro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Albert L. Ferro
Registration No. 44,679
Attorney for Applicant